

Application No.: 10/044367

Case No.: 57384US002

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 4 – 35, and 38 – 41 have been pending. Claims 8 and 41 are being canceled. Claims 1, 34, 35, and 40 are being amended. Claims 42 and 43 are being added.

Applicants are hereby amending claim 1 to recite the limitations of claim 8 (which is thus being canceled). This amendment limits the invention to articles wherein the adhesive layer does not contact the land of the release liner layer. Claim 35 is also being amended to include this limitation.

Claim 34 is being amended to include all of the limitations of claim 1 and to be an independent claim.

Claim 40 is being amended to recite the limitations of claim 41 (which is thus being canceled). This amendment limits the method to the release of articles wherein the adhesive layer does not contact the land of the substrate.

Claims 42 and 43 are being added. No new matter or new issues are raised by the amendments or new claims. Accordingly, entry of the amendments and new claims is requested.

**Interview Summary**

Applicants thank the Examiner for conducting an Interview with their representative, Nancy Lambert. During the interview, Applicants' claims filed with their Request for Continued Examination and the prior rejections over Calhoun (WO 93/05123) were discussed.

**Rejections under §§ 102/103**

Claims 1, 4 – 7, 9 – 17, 30 – 33, and 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Calhoun (WO 93/05123). Claims 1, 4 – 7, 9 – 33, 35, and 38 – 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Calhoun. The rejections are traversed for the following reasons.

The Examiner has stated that claims 8, 34, and 41 would be allowable "if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

Application No.: 10/044367

Case No.: 57384US002

All of Applicants' claims have been amended to include either the limitation of claim 8, claim 34, or claim 41. Thus, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 have been obviated by amendment, and Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

**Objection**

Claims 8, 34, and 41 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants' claims have been amended to overcome the objection. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

**Concluding Remarks**

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Oct. 19, 2004  
Date

By: Lisa P. Fulton  
Lisa P. Fulton, Reg. No.: 55,195  
Telephone No.: (651) 733-1260

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel  
3M Innovative Properties Company  
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833